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and impartial study of the subject, and in this respect is wholly admirable. But there seems to be no point to which the author is aiming. It is as if he did not see the wood for the trees, and yet the trees are all abstractions, not concrete things. This quality will prove a serious handicap to the success of the work.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

GARRETT DROPPERS

Socialism: A Summary and Interpretation of Social Principles.

By JOHN SPARGO. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1906.

8vo, pp. xvi+257.

Mr. Spargo is a veteran propagandist. This book therefore presents the view of the convinced socialist. In tone it is affirmative, in outline, historic-biographic and expository. It is written pretty definitely from the Marxian standpoint, with a strong tendency to make the essentially difficult and economically false doctrines of the master "beautifully simple." It is rather diffuse, quite elementary, and very uneven in quality. On the whole, however, it is readable, and in some portions inspiring.

The author's treatment of his topic, falls essentially, though not formally, into three parts. The first, consisting of chapters i, ii, iii, vii, introduces the reader to the general character and genesis of the modern socialist movement. It makes him acquainted with the chief nineteenth century utopians, and the life and activity of Marx and Engels. It adds nothing essential to that which has become common knowledge through the writings of Kirkup, Ely, and other contemporary writers.

The second part of the book, including chapters iv, v, vi, and viii, aims to be an exposition of the essential element of Marxian socialist theory. Socialism is here presented as a doctrine of social evolution founded on the materialistic conception of history. The author denies that the acceptance of this conception involves either a belief in economic determinism or a denial of the potency of ideals in shaping events. He attempts to prove the essential correctness of the materialistic conception, and of Marxian prophecy based on it, by a brief account of institutional evolution and by an extended discussion of the tendency under the capitalistic régime to concentration of production and wealth, and to the development of industrial classes and a contemporary class-struggle. These discussions are suggestive and form by all odds the best part of the book.

The strength of the author and the weakness of socialist economic theory are brought out very definitely in chapter viii, on the "Economics of Socialism." Marxian doctrine is beheaded, disemboweled, and served up as the genuine article with such skilfulness and dispatch that no unsophisticated reader can doubt the simplicity, clearness, and correctness of the original. At the same time, modern economic theory is disposed of with a deftness and appearance of familiarity admirable in its way. However, like more laborious efforts to revamp the Marxian value theory, this exposition serves mainly to excite wonder that socialist leaders should persist in regarding economic doctrine as so essential. Their cause would undoubtedly be strengthened by admitting the validity of modernized economics and by more frankly basing their case on humanism so far as it concerns economic justice.

"Outlines of the Socialist State," which, as chapter ix, completes this exposition, is rather a presentation of fundamental and "detailed specifications" and ideals than a constructive account based on principles. It serves, on the whole, to blunt the impression previously created of a distinct, class-conscious socialist theory and propaganda. The reader of it wonders at times how to distinguish socialism from the purposes and ideals of the "square-deal" reformers.

As an elementary presentation Mr. Spargo's work is distinctly meritorious, in spite of undoubted faults of style, exposition, and reasoning. Economically it need mislead no one. Sociologically it will prove stimulating to many. It is probably well worth publishing, though it adds nothing to the specialist's knowledge of socialist history or theory.

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NOTICES

National Labor Federations in the United States. By WILLIAM KIRK. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1906. 8vo, pp. 150.

Dr. Kirk defines national labor federation as being synonymous with "inter-trade association," and organizations effecting such association are classified into three groups: (1) "general federations," such as the Knights of Labor, the American Federation of Labor, and the American Labor Union; (2) "trades councils," such as the Building Trades Alliance and the Metal Trades Federation; and (3) "industrial unions," such as the Mine Workers and the Brotherhood of Railway Employees. The author details the history, structure, and function of these forms of organization in the United States, which are differentiated by the degree of trade autonomy preserved. The present essay is intended, not